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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/771,686	02/05/2004	Alan L. LaMaster	A-8681	4457	
7590	03/20/2006	EXAMINER			
ALEXANDER, REGINALD					
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER			
		1761			

DATE MAILED: 03/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/771,686	LAMASTER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	Reginald L. Alexander	1761

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,8 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 5-7,9 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/2004.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Double Patenting***

Applicant is advised that should claims 1 and 2 be found allowable, claims 3 and 4 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim.

See MPEP § 706.03(k).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Cuia.

There is disclosed in Miller a food supporting basket, comprising: a first grate 57 defined by spaced parallel rods 59 extending between a first transverse rod 86 at one end of the grate and a second transverse rod 62 at the opposite end of the grate; a first extension 88 projecting outwardly at one end of the transverse rod and a second extension 89 projecting outwardly at the opposite end of the transverse rod; a second grate 58 defined by spaced, parallel rods 60 extending between a first side member 87 and a second side member 63; at least one hinge clip 67, 68 secured to said first and

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second grates; anchors (extensions) 88a, 89a defined on the side members of the second plate; and latches 92, 93 extending between the extensions and anchors of the grates.

Cuia discloses the use of torsion springs secured between a first and second grate of a food support member.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute the latches of Miller for the springs disclosed in Cuia, in order to provide an alternative means for pulling the first and second grates together to apply pressure to the food items.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Cuia as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wagner.

Wagner discloses the use of hinge clips having a flat body and end hooks.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to substitute the hinges of Miller, as modified by Cuia, with the hinge clips disclosed in Wagner, in order to provide an alternative means for pivotally connecting the grates.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miller in view of Cuia as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of McCarney.

McCarney discloses the use of a form for shaping food items.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the device of Miller, as modified by Cuia, with the form disclosed in McCarney, in order to shape food items before they are placed between the grates and cooked.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

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Claims 5-7, 9 and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The patents to Grossman, Johnson et al., Serrell, Sidoti and Gaskins are cited for their disclosure of the state of the art.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reginald L. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Reginald L. Alexander

Primary Examiner

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rla

March 16, 2006